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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on Sustainable Development
Sixteenth session
5-16 May 2008
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — review session:
   (a) Agriculture;
   (b) Rural development;
   (c) Land;
   (d) Drought;
   (e) Desertification;
   (f) Africa.
4. Review of the implementation of the decisions on water and sanitation and their interlinkages taken by the Commission at its thirteenth session.
5. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixteenth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

1. Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman and such other officers as may be required. In previous sessions, the Commission elected, in addition to a Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom also served as Rapporteur.

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2. In its resolution 1997/63, the Council decided on the following future arrangements for the election of the Bureau of the Commission in order to implement the provisions of paragraph 136 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21:

> The Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, will hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairman and other members of the Bureau in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

3. On 11 May 2007, the Commission elected Francis D. Nhema (Zimbabwe) as Chairman and Javad Amin-Mansour (Islamic Republic of Iran), Daniel Carmon (Israel) and Juan Mario Dary (Guatemala) as Vice-Chairpersons of its sixteenth session and decided to postpone the election of the remaining members of the Bureau to a future meeting.

4. In a note verbale dated 16 May 2007 addressed to the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, which held the chairmanship of the regional group of Asian States for the month of May 2007, the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations notified the former of the withdrawal of Javad Amin-Mansour from the membership of the Bureau of the sixteenth session of the Commission.

5. The membership of the Commission for its sixteenth session is contained in annex II.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

6. Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

7. In its decision 2007/234, the Council decided that the sixteenth session of the Commission (the review session) should take place from 5 to 16 May 2008. In its decision 2007/235, the Council took note of the report of the Commission on its fifteenth session and approved the provisional agenda for its sixteenth session.

8. In its resolution 13/1, the Commission decided to devote one day of its review sessions to the review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, focusing on that year's thematic cluster, as well as on any new developments regarding the sustainable development efforts of small island developing States, using existing modalities. In this regard, the Secretary-General is requested to submit a report to the Commission at its review session concerning progress and obstacles in respect of sustainable development in small island developing States containing recommendations on enhancing implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 — review session

(a) Agriculture;

(b) Rural development;

(c) Land;

(d) Drought;

(e) Desertification;

(f) Africa.

9. In its resolution 2003/61, the Council decided that the organization of work of the Commission should contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation") at all levels. In the same resolution, the Council also decided that in order to fulfil its mandate, the work of the Commission would be organized in a series of two-year action-oriented implementation cycles, which would include a review session and a policy session. The cycles would function as follows:

(a) The Commission's review sessions, to be held in April/May for a period of two to three weeks in the first year of the cycle, would undertake an evaluation of progress in implementing Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while focusing on identifying constraints and obstacles in the process of implementation with regard to the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle;

(b) The review sessions would include a high-level segment, an exchange of regional experiences, dialogues with experts, including scientific experts, and sharing of best practices and lessons learned, with a view to facilitating implementation and capacity-building activities such as learning centres and partnership fairs;

(c) The review sessions would undertake the above-mentioned evaluation on the basis of:

(i) The Secretary-General's state-of-implementation reports, which should reflect overall progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, based on information provided in country reports and reports of United Nations organizations and bodies, as well as on information from regions and subregions, as appropriate, and major groups. In addition, the Secretary-General's state-of-implementation reports should contain a detailed review of progress of implementation in the selected thematic cluster of issues for the cycle at all levels and should also reflect new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21;

(ii) The contributions of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, the Global Environment Facility and international financial and trade institutions;

(iii) The outcomes of regional and subregional meetings and activities, as appropriate;

(iv) The contributions of major groups, including scientific experts, as well as educators, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, on their results-oriented activities

concerning the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(d) The review session evaluation should enable an improved understanding of priority concerns in the implementation of the selected thematic cluster of issues and facilitate an effective policy discussion in the course of the policy year with a view to strengthening implementation in those areas;

(e) The outcome of the review session would be a report, including a chairperson's summary, identifying constraints and obstacles and possible approaches and best practices for the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

10. In the same resolution, the Council also decided to adopt a multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period after 2003. For the period 2008-2009, the multi-year programme of work will be as follows:

Cycle	*Thematic cluster*	*Cross-cutting issues*
2008-2009	• Agriculture • Rural development • Land • Drought • Desertification • Africa	Poverty eradication; changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production; protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development; sustainable development in a globalizing world; health and sustainable development; sustainable development of small island developing States; sustainable development for Africa; other regional initiatives; means of implementation; institutional framework for sustainable development; gender equality; and education

11. The Council further decided that the implementation of the programme of work would be guided, inter alia, by the following considerations:

(a) The review and evaluation of the implementation of actions, commitments and targets would be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the decisions of the Commission. The thematic clusters should be addressed in an integrated manner, taking into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Recognizing that all the issues identified in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation were important, the implementation process should cover all those issues equally, and the selection of some issues during a given cycle did not therefore diminish the importance of the commitments undertaken with respect to the issues to be considered during future cycles;

(b) Means of implementation, as identified in Agenda 21 and chapter X of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, should be addressed in every cycle and for every relevant issue, action and commitment;

(c) Other cross-cutting issues, as referred to in the annex to Council resolution 2003/61, should also be addressed in every cycle;

(d) African and other regional initiatives, as well as initiatives on small island developing States and least developed countries, would be considered in every cycle with respect to all relevant issues, actions and targets;

(e) The Commission should focus on those issues where it could add value to intergovernmental deliberations on cross-sectoral and sectoral issues, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/191, in particular its paragraphs 3 (h), 21 and 23, as well as paragraph 139 (f) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on an overview of progress towards sustainable development: a review of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (E/CN.17/2008/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on agriculture (E/CN.17/2008/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on rural development (E/CN.17/2008/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on land (E/CN.17/2008/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on drought (E/CN.17/2008/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on desertification (E/CN.17/2008/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on Africa (E/CN.17/2008/8)

Report of the Secretary-General on an integrated review of the thematic cluster of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa in small island developing States (E/CN.17/2008/9)

Report of the Secretary-General on partnerships for sustainable development (E/CN.17/2008/10)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of decisions on water and sanitation taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session (E/CN.17/2008/11)

Note by the Secretariat on the outcomes of the regional implementation meetings (E/CN.17/2008/12 and Add.1-5)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the discussion papers submitted by major groups (E/CN.17/2008/13 and Add.1-9)

Background papers (for information only, to be made available in the language of submission and posted on the following website: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_csd16.htm)

4. Review of the implementation of the decisions on water and sanitation and their interlinkages taken by the Commission at its thirteenth session

12. In its resolution 13/1, the Commission decided to devote, in 2008 and 2012, without prejudice to the programme, organization and methods of work of the

Commission adopted at its eleventh session, a separate segment at the end of its review sessions, for a duration to be determined by the Bureau in advance, using one to two days as a benchmark, to monitor and follow up the implementation of decisions on water and sanitation, and their interlinkages, taken at the Commission's thirteenth session.

5. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission

13. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Secretary-General shall submit a draft provisional agenda for the Commission's subsequent session, indicating in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current session.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixteenth session

14. In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

The proposed organization of work for the sixteenth session of the Commission has been prepared on the basis of informal consultations conducted by the Bureau and is set out below.

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Week of 5-9 May 2008		
Monday, 5 May		Opening of the session
10 a.m.-1 p.m.		Plenary
	1	Election of officers
	2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	3	General statements
3-6 p.m.	3	Thematic discussions
		Regional discussions
Tuesday, 6 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3	Thematic discussions
		Regional discussions
3-6 p.m.	3	Thematic discussions
		Regional discussions
		Dialogue with major groups
Wednesday, 7 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3	Thematic discussions
3-6 p.m.	3	Thematic discussions
Thursday, 8 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3	Thematic discussions
3-6 p.m.	3	Thematic discussions

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Friday, 9 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3	Thematic discussions
3-6 p.m.	3	Thematic discussions
		Dialogue with major groups and representatives of partnerships
Week of 12-16 May 2008		
Monday, 12 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3	Thematic discussions on small island developing States
		Review of the implementation of decisions on water and sanitation taken by the Commission at its thirteenth session
3-6 p.m.	3, 4	Thematic discussions on small island developing States
		Review of the implementation of decisions on water and sanitation taken by the Commission at its thirteenth session
Tuesday, 13 May		
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	4	Review of the implementation of decisions on water and sanitation taken by the Commission at its thirteenth session
3-6 p.m.	4	Review of the implementation of decisions on water and sanitation taken by the Commission at its thirteenth session
		Introduction of the Chairman's summary — Part I
Wednesday, 14 May		High-level segment
8.30-10 a.m.		Informal ministerial meeting: introductory session
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3, 4	Statements and interactive discussions: "The way forward"
3-6 p.m.	3, 4	Statements and interactive discussions: "The way forward"
		Ministerial round tables

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Thursday, 15 May		
8.30-10 a.m.		Informal ministerial meeting with the United Nations system
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3, 4	Interactive discussions with heads of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes
		Statements and interactive discussions: "The way forward"
3-6 p.m.	3, 4	Statements and interactive discussions: "The way forward"
		Interactive discussions with major groups
Friday, 16 May		
8.30-10 a.m.		Informal ministerial meeting: summing up
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	3, 4	Statements and interactive discussions: "The way forward"
3-4.30 p.m.	3, 4	Introduction of the Chairman's summary — Part II
4.30-5.30 p.m.	5	Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission
5.30-6 p.m.	6	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixteenth session
		Closing of the session

Annex II

Membership of the Commission at its sixteenth session

Antigua and Barbuda
Australia
Bahrain
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Bolivia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Chile
China
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
France
Gambia
Germany
Guatemala
Guinea
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Israel
Italy
Japan
Kuwait
Mexico
Monaco
Netherlands
Peru
Poland
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Serbia
Senegal
South Africa
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Thailand
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Zambia
Zimbabwe